Public Notice

US Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District

REPLY TO: ATTN: Gregg Williams
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
167 North Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894
Telephone (901) 544-3852
Fax (901) 544-0931
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POSTMASTER PLEASE POST UNTIL:

PUBLIC NOTICE NO:
MISSISSIPPI 2001-060 [GWW]
REFERENCE NUMBER:
200132060
PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:
October 12, 2001
EXPIRATION DATE:
November 13, 2001

Joint Public Notice
Corps of Engineers
and
State of Arkansas

AUTHORITY: Pursuant to 33 CFR 325, as published in the Federal Register dated November 13, 1986, this notice announces an application submitted for a Department of the Army permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

APPLICANT: Plum Point Energy Associates, LCC
Attn: D. Blake Wheatley
400 Chesterfield Center, Suite 110
St. Louis, Missouri 63017
(636) 532-2200

LOCATION: The project site includes approximately 880 acres located in Sections 7, 8, 17 and 18, Township 12 North, Range 11 E and Section 13, 24, 25 and 26, Township 12 North, Range 10 E, Mississippi County, Arkansas. This is approximately 3 miles south of the City of Osceola and 40 miles north of Memphis, Tennessee. The site is adjacent to the Mississippi River. The latitude and longitude for the site is approximately 35 degrees 39 minutes 29 seconds N and 89 degrees 56 minutes 32 seconds E, respectively. The project site is shown on Sheet 1 of 10, which is an excerpt of the 7 ½ minute series USGS topographic map for the Osceola Quadrangle.

PURPOSE: To construct a coal-fired electric generation facility (**Plum Point Energy Station**). Plum Point Energy Station is designed to be a modern coal fired power generation facility. The facility will help to meet the growing electrical needs of the region through production of low cost, reliable electricity. Commercial operation for the facility is expected in 2005 with construction commencing in 2002.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The major components of the project consist of the following:

- Power Island (pulverized coal boilers, steam turbines, stack, cooling towers, electrical switchyard, various buildings and other auxiliary equipment)
- Coal yard and handling equipment
- Barge facilities
- Railroad loop
- Ash disposal area
- Switchyard and overhead high voltage electric transmission lines
- Water supply pipeline to the water intake structure to be located on the Mississippi River
- Wastewater pipeline and outfall at the Mississippi River
- Service roads

WETLAND DETERMINATION / FINDINGS: The project area consists of approximately 880 acres, most of which is prior converted cropland. There are approximately 90 acres of forested wetlands, approximately 785 acres of prior converted cropland, approximately 3 acres of farmed uplands and approximately 2 acres of other wetlands. Of this, approximately 4.2 acres of wetlands would be impacted through this project. Of the

4.2 acres, approximately 2.2 are forested wetlands which will be converted to shrub scrub. The other 2 acres contain hydrophytic vegetation including trees.

OTHER WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES: The Mississippi River serves as the property boundary to the east. There are also a total of 4 ditches which cross the property: the Brown Bayou, Ditch 9, Ditch 11 and Ditch 16. The proposed impacts to the Mississippi River would occur with the construction of the barge facilities, the surface water intake and the wastewater outfall. Construction of the project will also impact the Brown Bayou and Ditch 11.

BARGE FACILITY: The barge facility will be comprised of a mooring area, a coal unloader, and a pneumatic ash loading station. The mooring area will have space for up to 28 barges and the loading and unloading area will support up to six barges. The mooring area will encompass approximately 1,880 ft. by 250 ft. and the loading/unloading facility will encompass approximately 1,450 ft. by 250 ft. (Sheet 3 of 10). The conceptual design for the loading/unloading facility is shown in Sheet 5 of 10.

Coal will be transported from the barge unloading facility through a conveyor system. The system will be approximately 20 ft. wide and 2,275 ft. long and traverse through 800 ft. of forested wetlands.

Dredging of the river will not be necessary due to the depths at this location (Sheet 6 of 10). Travel along the river should not be impacted due to the 1,870 ft. navigable width of the river through this area (Sheet 2 of 10).

POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO REGULATED RESOURCES: The development of this project has used the principles of impact avoidance and minimization to the extent possible. Alternatives to the site layout design are still under consideration pending the results of historical/archeological findings. The following presents the preferred design alternatives:

- The power island is located in prior converted cropland and will not have any wetland impacts.
- The coal yard is located in prior converted croplands and will be enclosed by the railroad loop. Runoff from the coal piles will be captured in a sedimentation pond and then discharged under the NPDES permit for the project.
- Navigation should not be impacted by the construction of the barge loading/unloading facility. The Corps of Engineers 1998 navigation maps show the Mississippi River to be a minimum of 1,870 ft. wide through this area. The barge facility will be approximately 250 ft. wide leaving approximately 1,620 ft. for navigational traffic through the area (Sheet 2 of 10).
- The railroad spur to the Burlington Northern Railroad will cross the Brown Bayou at two locations south of Highway 239 and Ditch 11 once as shown in Sheet 7 of 10. As described in Section 1.2 of Genesis Environmental Consulting's Preliminary Wetlands Determination for Plum Point Energy Station, these areas have been cleared of vegetation. Culverts will be used where necessary to prevent obstruction of flow.
- Ditch 11 starts in the western portion of the ash disposal area and continues for 0.25 miles south through the property and continues for approximately 0.20 miles as a property boundary. The 0.25 miles of the ditch that runs through the property will be filled in as part of the ash disposal facility. The 0.20 miles of the ditch that acts as a property boundary will not be filled. Flow impacts will be minimal since the ditch initiates on the property rather than traversing it. Stormwater runoff will be regulated via a permit to be obtained from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).
- The electric transmission line tower corridor is shown in Sheet 3 of 10. Transmission towers will be located outside of any ditches they cross. Any trees and/or brush in the three wetland areas associated with the transmission line segment may have to be trimmed or cut to prevent interference with the transmission lines, however no transmission towers or foundations will be located in these wetland areas.
- Water withdrawal will be accomplished through a new pumphouse to be constructed near the edge of the Mississippi River. The water intake pipe will be between 3 ft. and 4 ft. in diameter and will extend approximately 60 ft. to 120 ft. into the river. The intake pipe will terminate in one or more tees that run parallel with the river. Each tee section will be approximately 6 ft. to 12 ft. long and approximately 4 ft. in diameter. An intake screen will be located at each end of each such tee. Another pipeline will connect the pumphouse to the power project equipment. A conceptual design for the intake structure is shown in Sheet 4 of 10. Pilings will be installed to support the tee sections and screens.
- H piles may be installed upstream of the intake screens to protect them from debris. These would be H shaped sections of steel driven into the riverbed to act as a barrier to large objects. The intake screen will be located approximately 20 ft. below the low water reference level. The top of the H piles will be a few feet above the top of the screens.
- A process wastewater outfall will be constructed as shown in Sheet 4 of 10. The wastewater piping will be between 12 in. to 14 in. in diameter and will discharge to the river by either an underwater or surface discharge. If a surface discharge is used, the wastewater pipe will terminate at a concrete headwall installed on the riverbank and rip rap will placed on the riverbank down to the river. If an underwater discharge is used, the wastewater piping will extend approximately 60 ft. to 120 ft. into the river. A discharge diffuser pipe (running perpendicular to the river flow) may be installed at the end of the pipe with pilings installed in the river bottom for support. It will be located in the vicinity of river mile 783.7.
- One or two temporary cofferdams will be constructed as part of this project: one associated with the construction of the water intake piping and one associated with the construction of the wastewater discharge piping. (The second cofferdam would not be required for the

wastewater discharge piping if a surface discharge were installed as described above.) Each would be a three-sided wet cofferdam used to protect divers from the river currents. The two walls of the cofferdam(s) situated perpendicular to the river flow would extend out approximately 80 ft. to 140 ft. from the riverbank and would be separated by a distance of approximately 40 ft. The third wall of the cofferdam(s) would run parallel with the river flow and would connect the two other walls. The cofferdam(s) will be approximately 60 ft. tall from the bottom of the river with water being allowed to spill over the top. Any revetment, which is damaged within or at the bottom of the cofferdam(s), would be repaired with riprap (of approximately 18 in. round).

Approximately 2.2 acres of forested wetlands will be converted to emergent or shrub-scrub during the construction of the conveyor foundations and the makeup and effluent water pipelines (Sheet 3 of 10).

The project will require three service roads in areas other than converted croplands, two for the ash disposal area and one for the facilities along the river. For access to the ash disposal area there will be a northern service route and a southern service route. The northern service road will require one crossing of the Brown Bayou. The southern service road will most likely parallel the railroad and will require two crossings of the Brown Bayou. These three crossings are shown in Sheet 7 of 10. The crossings will be implemented through the use of culverts. The service road providing access to the pumphouse, wastewater outfall and the barge loading/unloading facility will utilize the existing road. No impacts to regulated resources are anticipated for the river service road.

TYPE (S) OF MATERIAL BEING DISCHARGED AND THE AMOUNT OF EACH TYPE IN CUBIC YARDS:

- Approximately 71,936 cubic yards of pilings and riprap for barge facility.
- Approximately 150 cubic yards of concrete for pilings to support the coal conveyor support structure through the forested wetlands between the levee and the Mississippi River.
- Approximately 400 cubic yards of engineering fill material to support concrete or steel culverts in the Brown Bayou and Ditch 11.
- Approximately 7,000 cubic yards of clay, sand, and coal ash in construction and filling of the ash disposal facility for the first quarter mile of Ditch 11.
- Up to approximately 8,000 cubic yards of steel sheet piles or other engineering material to temporarily construct coffer dam(s) in the Mississippi River.
- Approximately 0.05 cubic yards of steel for the H piles for protection of the intake screens.
- Approximately 0.05 cubic yards of pilings to support intake screens and possibly discharge structure.

SURFACE AREA IN ACRES OF WETLANDS OR OTHER WATERS FILLED:

- Approximately 0.9 acres of water in the Mississippi River filled for the barge unloading facility cells.
- Approximately 1.1 acres of forested wetlands converted to shrub-scrub for the coal conveyor through the wetlands between the levee and the river (60 ft. x 800 ft.)
- Approximately 0.017 acres of waters filled - 3 rail road crossings via culverts over the Brown Bayou and Ditch 11 (8 ft. x 30 ft.) No impacts to wetlands are anticipated as the natural vegetation in these areas has been cleared.
- Approximately 0.008 acres of waters filled – 3 service road crossings via culverts over the Brown Bayou (8 ft. x 15 ft.). No impacts to wetlands are anticipated as the natural vegetation in these areas has been cleared.
- Approximately 0.61 acres of Ditch 11 filled from the initiation point to 0.25 miles south for construction of the ash disposal facility (20 ft. x 1320 ft.). No impacts to wetlands are anticipated.
- Trimming or cutting of trees in approximately 2.07 acres of non-forested wetlands to prevent interference with electric transmission lines. No wetlands will be filled as a result of this action.
- Approximately 1.1 acres of forested wetlands converted to shrub-scrub for the water intake and wastewater outfall pipelines through the wetlands between the levee and the river (60 ft. x 800 ft.)
- Approximately 0.02 acres of water in the Mississippi River temporarily filled for construction of the coffer dam(s) for the construction of the water intake and the wastewater discharge lines.
- Less than 0.01 acres of water in Mississippi River filled for installation of steel H piles for protection of intake screens.
- Less than 0.01 acres of water in Mississippi River filled for construction of pilings to support intake screens and possibly discharge structure.

WETLAND MITIGATION ZONE: Approximately 88 acres of forested wetlands will be preserved. The creation of 8.4 acres of wetlands is proposed to mitigate the approximate 4.2 acres of wetlands to be affected by this project. The wetlands will be created by excavation of part of one of the farm fields near the southern boundary of the property located east of the existing levee and levee borrow pit. The land will be excavated down to approximately 1 ft. below the existing water line of the levee borrow pit and planted with trees. This area is shown in Sheet 8 of 10. According to the 1971 Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Mississippi County Soil Survey, this area contains Convent fine sandy loam soil. This soil type, according to the SCS, has a high available water capacity and a moderate to high natural fertility. The maps from the preliminary wetlands determinations are included (Sheets 9 and 10 of 10).

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: By copy of this public notice, the applicant is requesting water quality certification from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality that the activity will comply with applicable requirements set forth in 33 U.S.C. and 1341(a)(1) of the Clean Water

Act and all State laws and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto. This certification or evidence of this water quality certification or waiver of the right to certify must be submitted prior to the issuance of a Corps of Engineers permit. The Corps of Engineers' evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC). Per letter dated April 5, 2001, the USFWS stated that two Federally listed species found within Mississippi County include the endangered least tern and the threatened American bald eagle. Since no eagles are known to nest in the proposed project area it should not be adversely impacted. In addition, no least terns and/or their nest were found in recent surveys in the proposed project area. Therefore the service anticipates that this project would not have any adverse impacts on either of these listed species. Coordination with the ANHC (letter dated September 13, 2000) did not show any records at that time. By copy of this public notice, the applicant is requesting final comments regarding endangered or threatened wildlife or plants, or their critical habitat. Any comments received will be considered in our evaluation of the described work.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: Burns and McDonnell, Inc and Weaver & Associates conducted Phase I Cultural Resources Surveys (2001) and have provided the results to the State Historic Preservation Officer. In addition, the Memphis District, Archeologist is in the process of coordinating with the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma and Tunica-Biloxi Indians of Louisiana. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archaeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

FLOOD PLAIN: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW: The purpose of this public notice is to advise all interested parties of the activities for which a permit is sought and to solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the probable impact on the public interest.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

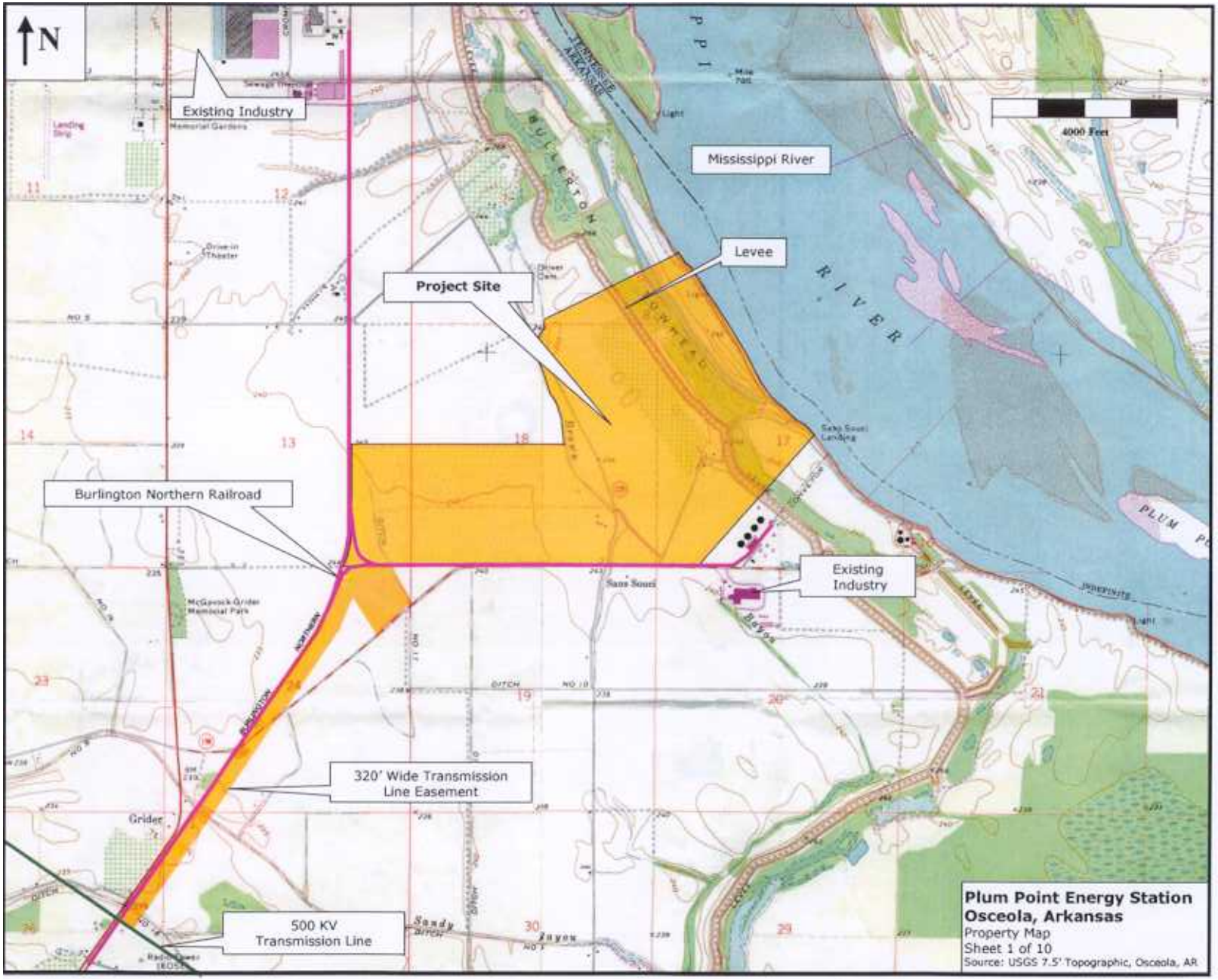
PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed for making a decision.

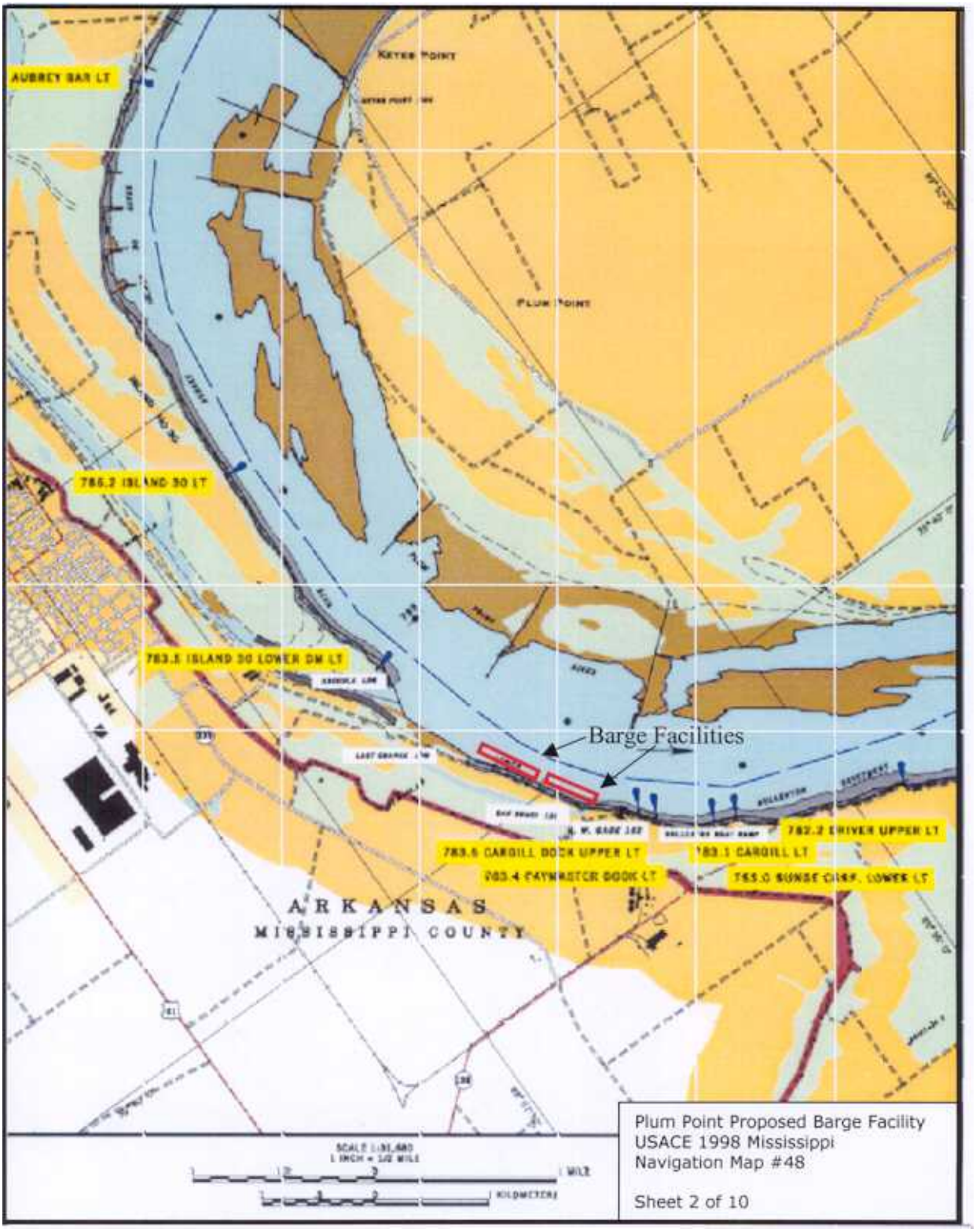
COMMENTS OR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: If you wish to obtain additional information or to submit comments on the application, please contact Gregg Williams at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 167 North Main Street, Room B-202, Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894, telephone (901) 544-3852. Copies of all comments, including the names and address of commenters, may be provided to the applicant for consideration and response prior to a decision by the Corps.

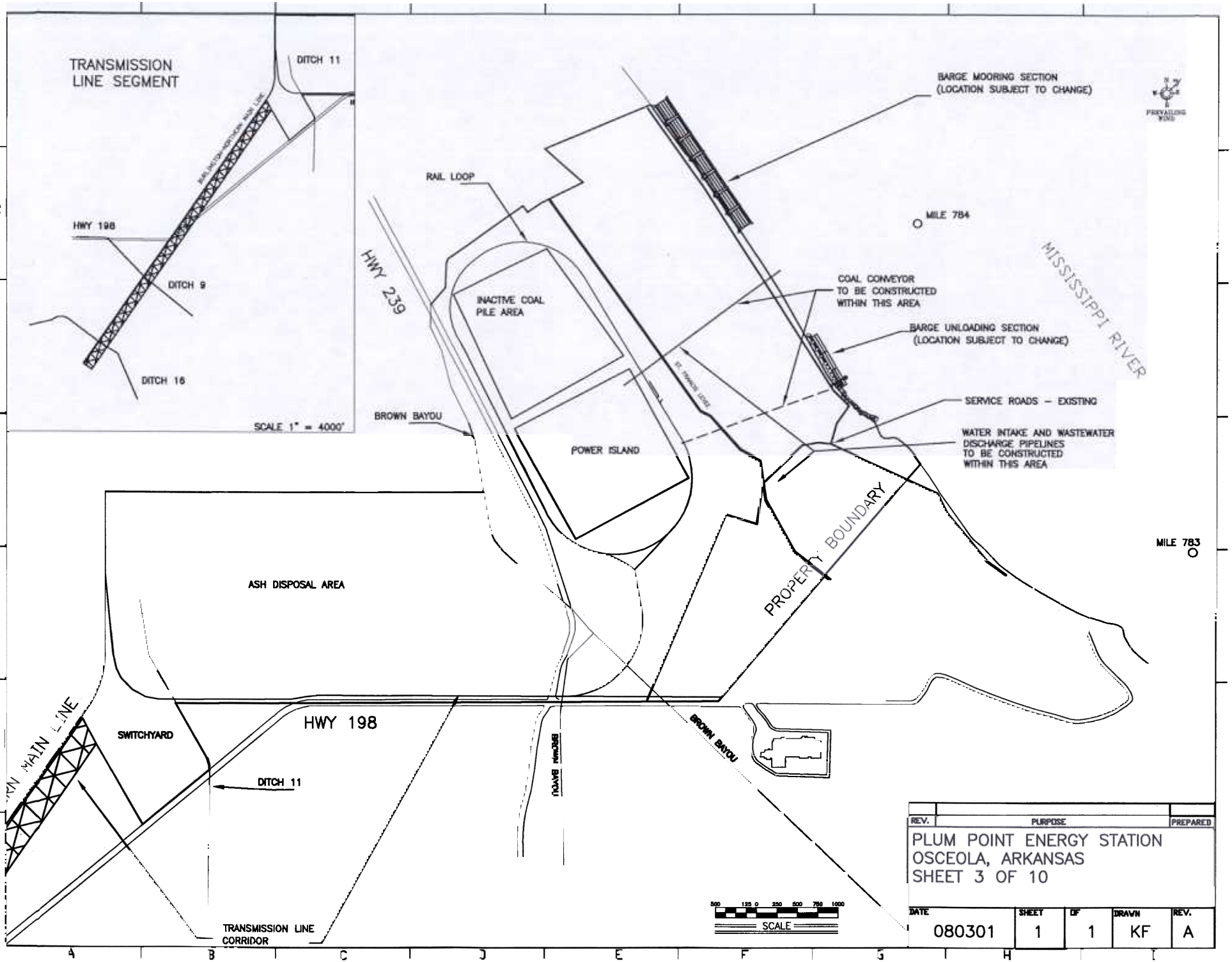
Comments should be received by November 13, 2001

Larry D. Watson
Chief
Regulatory Branch

Attachments


N
Existing Industry
Mississippi River
Levee
Project Site
Burlington Northern Railroad
Existing Industry
320' Wide Transmission Line Easement
500 KV Transmission Line
4000 Feet
Plum Point Energy Station
Osceola, Arkansas
Property Map
Sheet 1 of 10
Source: USGS 7.5' Topographic, Osceola, AR


AUBREY BAR LT
KEYES POINT
PLUM POINT
785.2 ISLAND 30 LT
783.3 ISLAND 30 LOWER DM LT
Barge Facilities
783.6 CARGILL DOCK UPPER LT
783.1 CARGILL LT
783.4 PAYMASTER DOCK LT
ARKANSAS
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY
Plum Point Proposed Barge Facility
USACE 1998 Mississippi
Navigation Map #48
Sheet 2 of 10


TRANSMISSION LINE SEGMENT
DITCH 11
HWY 198
DITCH 9
DITCH 16
SCALE 1" = 4000'
BARGE MOORING SECTION (LOCATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE)
PREVAILING WIND
RAIL LOOP
MILE 784
HWY 239
INACTIVE COAL PILE AREA
COAL CONVEYOR TO BE CONSTRUCTED WITHIN THIS AREA
BARGE UNLOADING SECTION (LOCATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE)
MISSISSIPPI RIVER
SERVICE ROADS – EXISTING
BROWN BAYOU
POWER ISLAND
WATER INTAKE AND WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PIPELINES TO BE CONSTRUCTED WITHIN THIS AREA
PROPERTY BOUNDARY
MILE 783
ASH DISPOSAL AREA
HWY 198
SWITCHYARD
DITCH 11
BROWN BAYOU
TRANSMISSION LINE CORRIDOR
SCALE
REV.
PURPOSE
PREPARED
PLUM POINT ENERGY STATION
OSCEOLA, ARKANSAS
SHEET 3 OF 10
DATE
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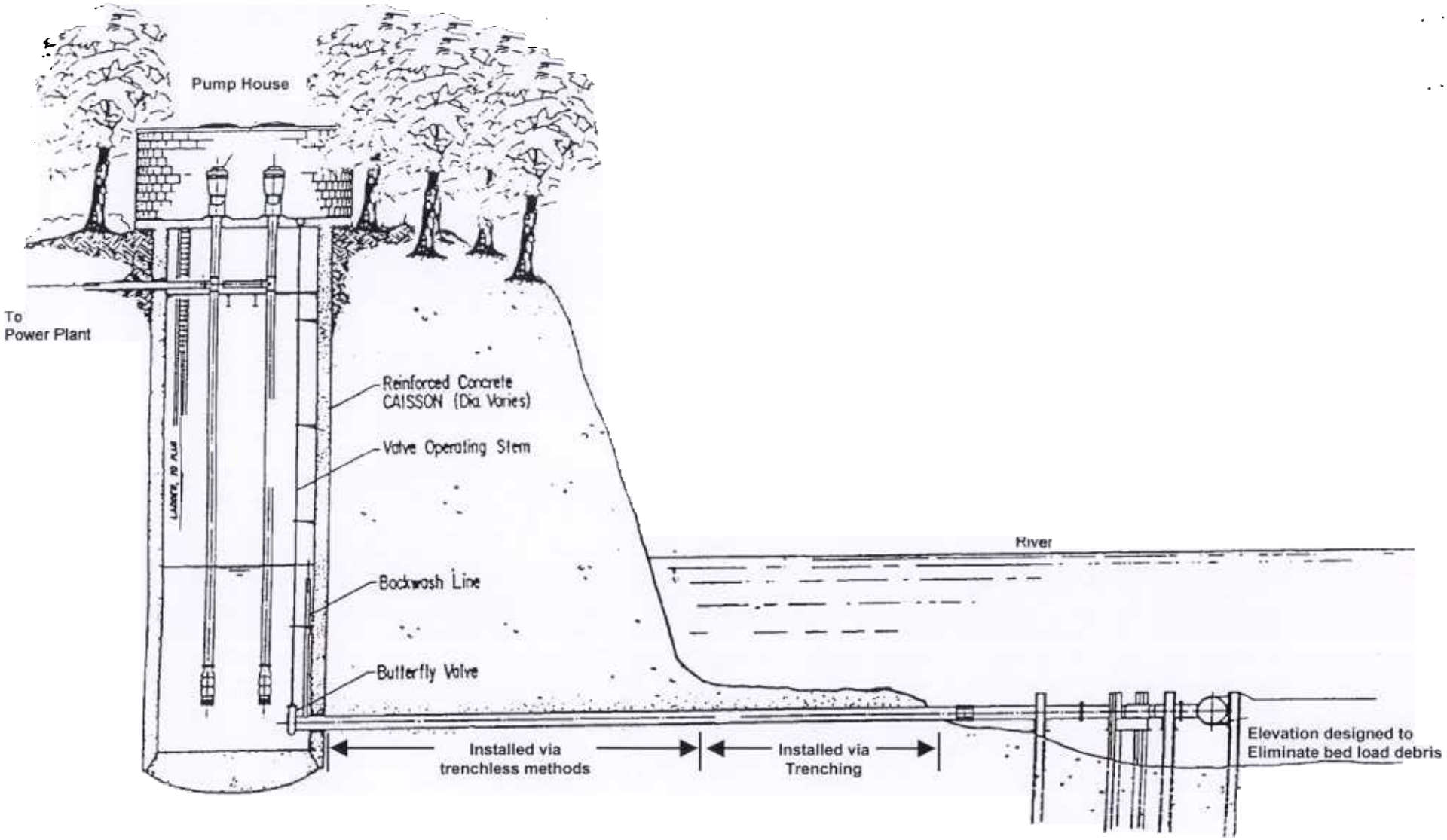
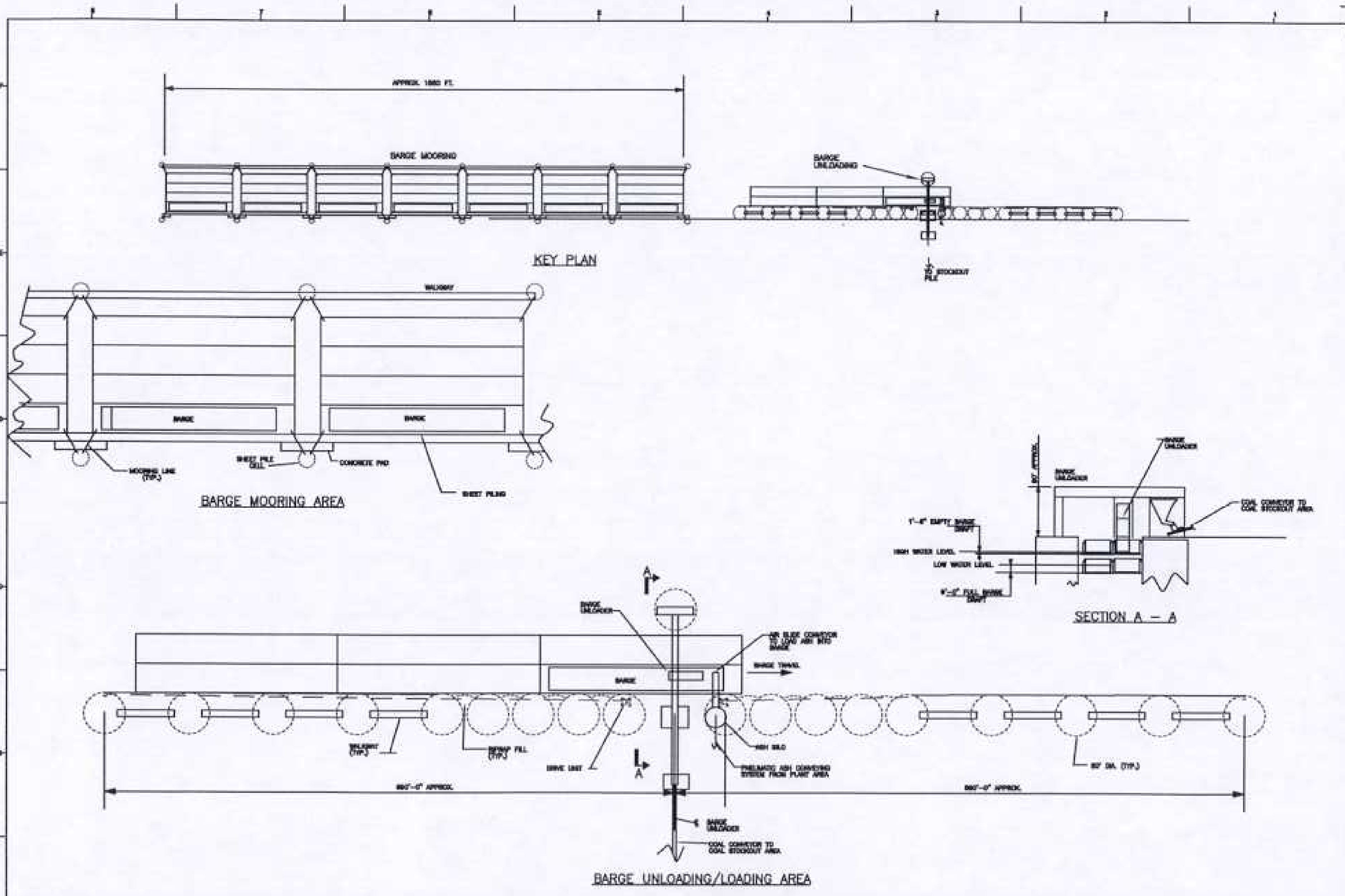


Conceptual Water Intake Structure
Sheet 4 of 10
NOT TO SCALE



CONCEPTUAL
BARGE UNLOADER/
FLYASH LOADING &
BARGE MOORING
PLUM POINT ENERGY STATION

SHEET 5 of 10

BAR-1

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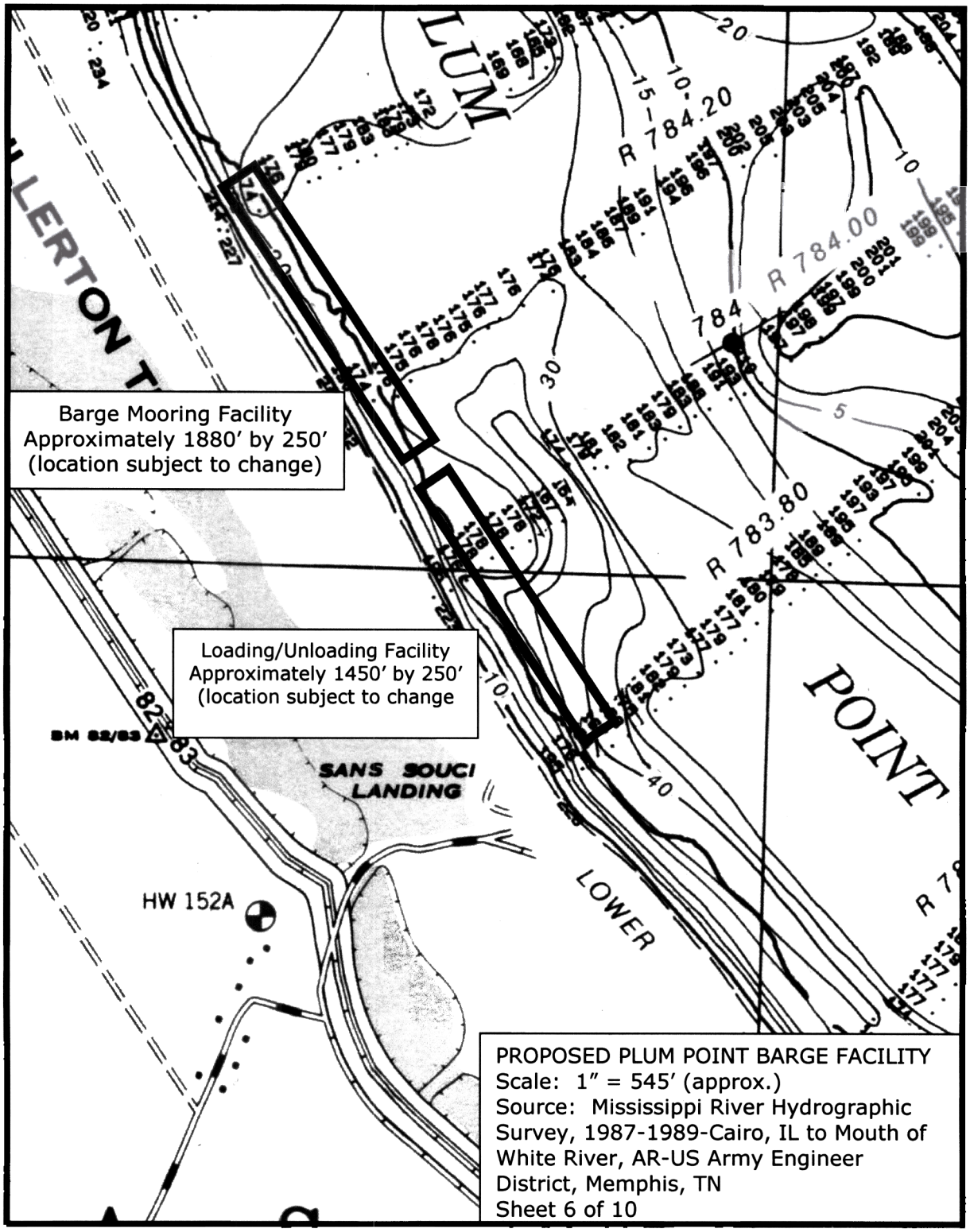
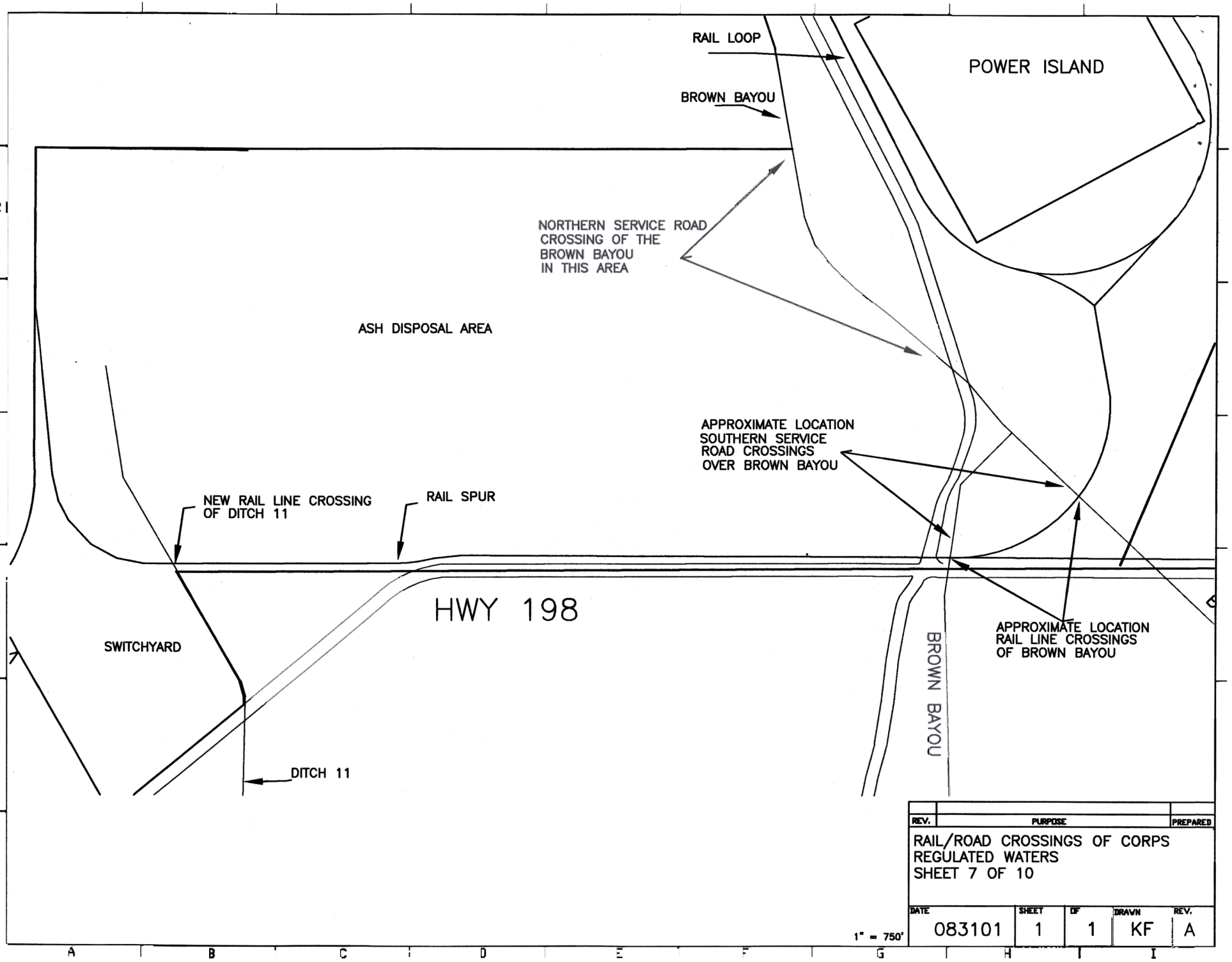
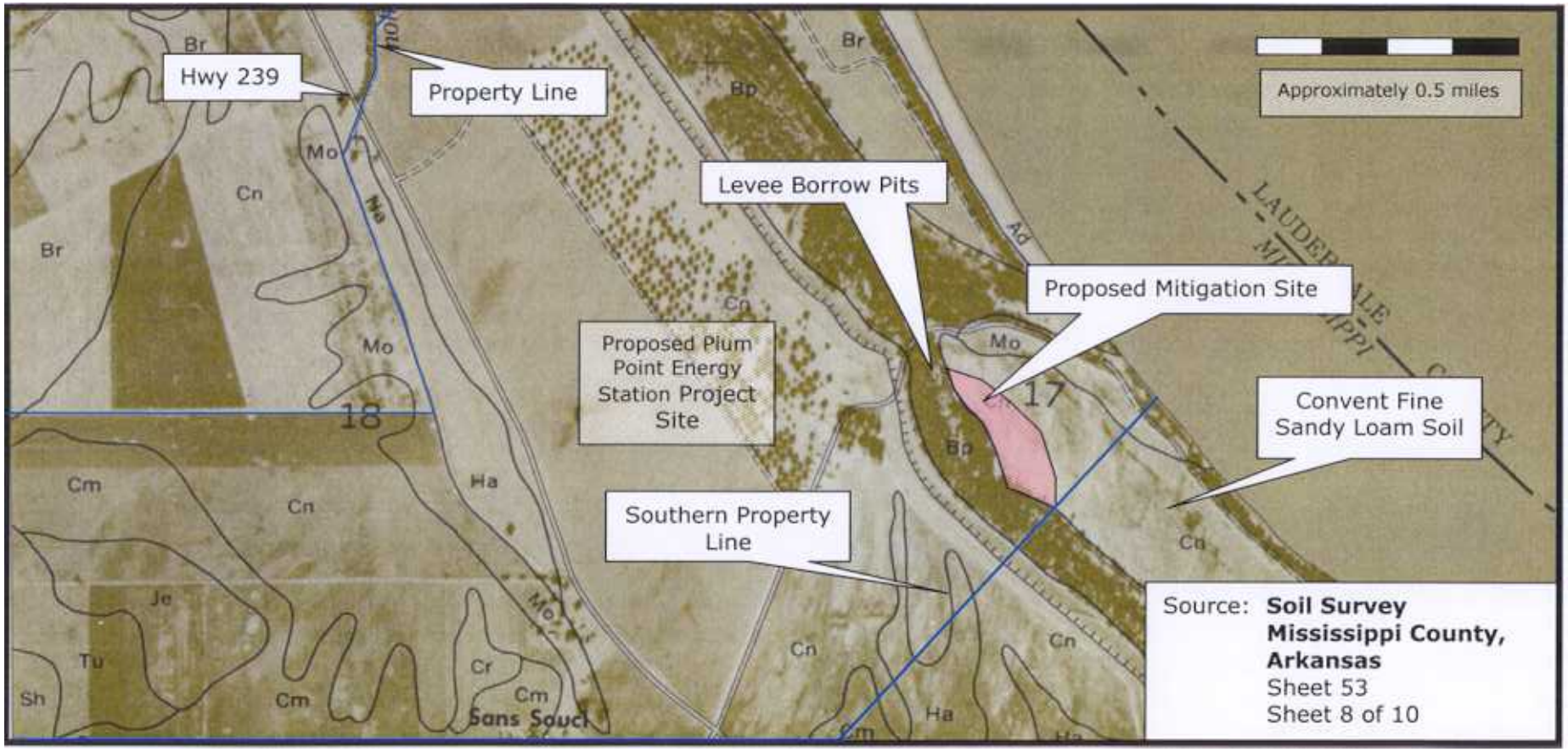

Barge Mooring Facility
Approximately 1880' by 250'
(location subject to change)
Loading/Unloading Facility
Approximately 1450' by 250'
(location subject to change
R 784.20
R 784.00
R 783.80
784
SANS SOUCI
LANDING
HW 152A
BM 82/83
LOWER
POINT
PROPOSED PLUM POINT BARGE FACILITY
Scale: 1" = 545' (approx.)
Source: Mississippi River Hydrographic Survey, 1987-1989-Cairo, IL to Mouth of White River, AR-US Army Engineer District, Memphis, TN
Sheet 6 of 10



REV.	PURPOSE	PREPARED

RAIL/ROAD CROSSINGS OF CORPS REGULATED WATERS
SHEET 7 OF 10

DATE	SHEET	OF	DRAWN	REV.
083101	1	1	KF	A


Hwy 239
Property Line
Levee Borrow Pits
Proposed Mitigation Site
Proposed Plum Point Energy Station Project Site
Convent Fine Sandy Loam Soil
Southern Property Line
Approximately 0.5 miles
Source: Soil Survey Mississippi County, Arkansas
Sheet 53
Sheet 8 of 10
Br
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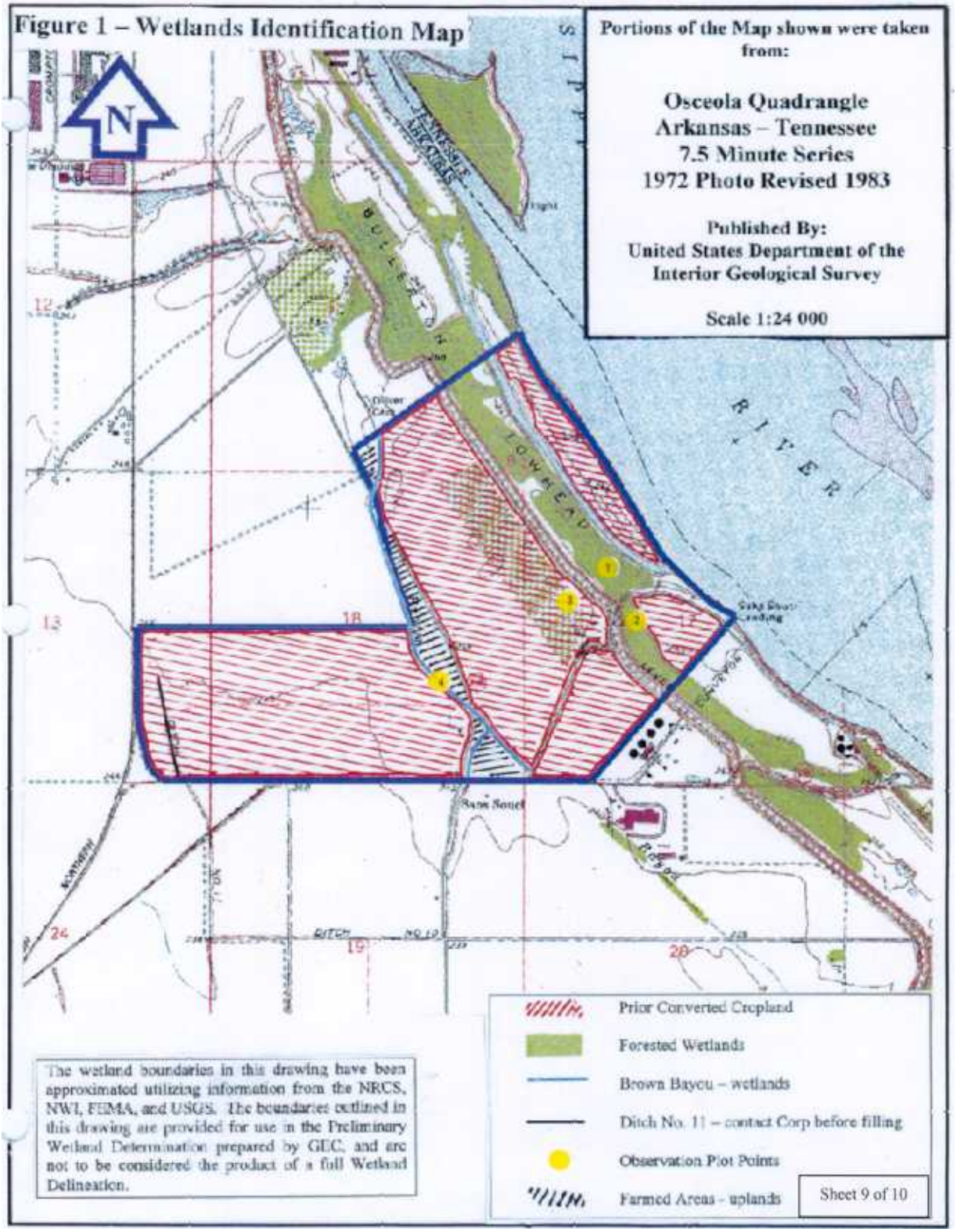
Sans Souci

Figure 1 – Wetlands Identification Map



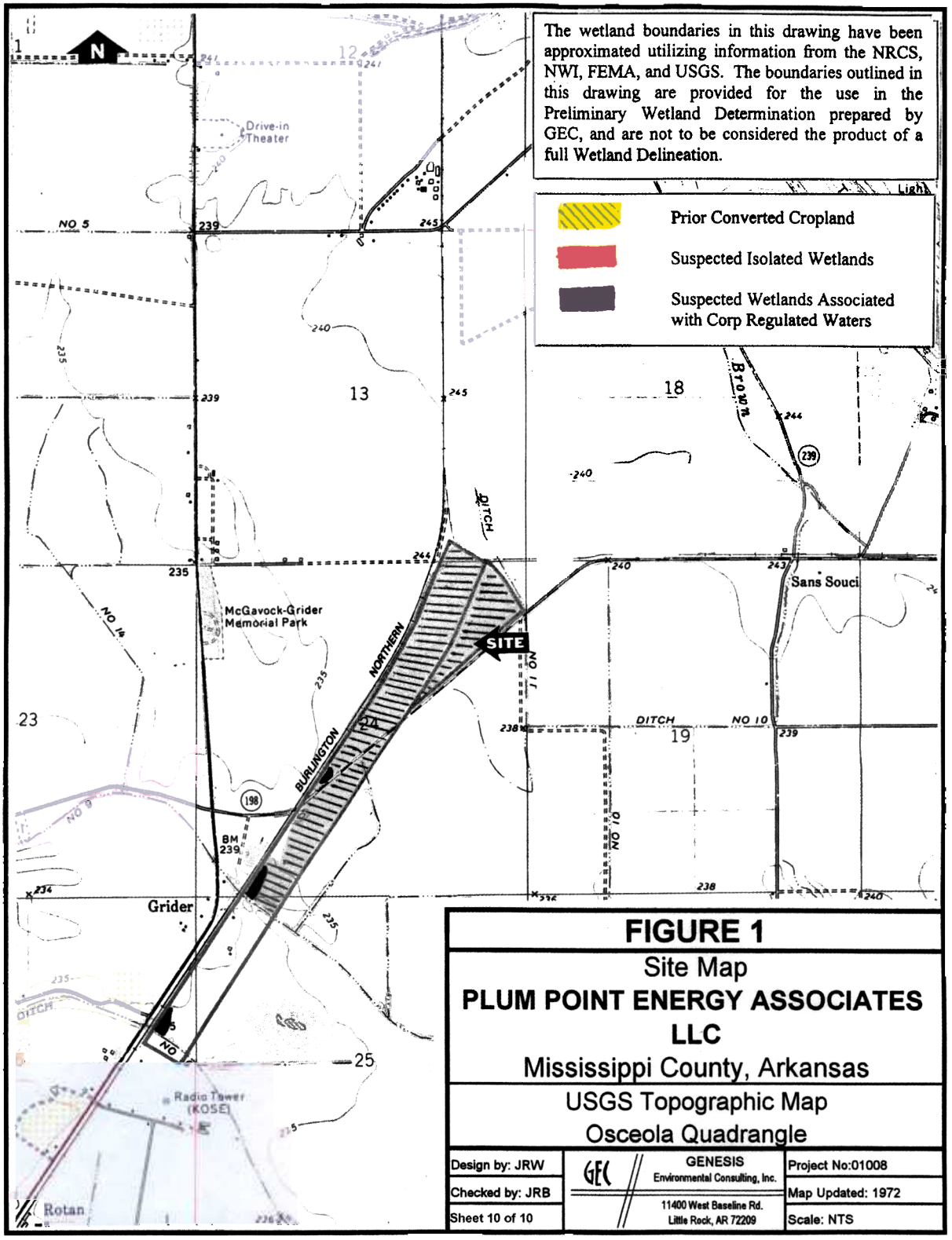


FIGURE 1

Site Map

PLUM POINT ENERGY ASSOCIATES LLC

Mississippi County, Arkansas

USGS Topographic Map

Osceola Quadrangle

Design by: JRW	GENESIS Environmental Consulting, Inc.	Project No:01008
Checked by: JRB	11400 West Baseline Rd. Little Rock, AR 72209	Map Updated: 1972
Sheet 10 of 10		Scale: NTS